

(e) *Passport acceptance agent* means a U.S. national designated by the Department to accept passport applications and to administer oaths and affirmations in connection with such applications.

(f) *Passport agent* means a U.S. citizen employee of the Department of State, including consular officers, diplomatic officers and consular agents abroad, and such U.S. citizen Department of State employees or contractors as the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs may designate for the purpose of administering oaths and affirmations for passport applications.

(g) *Passport application* means the application form for a United States passport, as prescribed by the Department pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 213 and all documents, photographs, and statements submitted with the form or thereafter in support of the application.

(h) *Passport authorizing officer* means a U.S. citizen employee who is authorized by the Department to approve the issuance of passports.

(i) *Secretary* means the Secretary of State.

(j) *United States* when used in a geographical sense means the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and all other United States territories and possessions.

(k) *U.S. citizen* means a person who acquired U.S. citizenship at birth or upon naturalization as provided by law and who has not subsequently lost such citizenship.

(l) *U.S. national* means a U.S. citizen or a U.S. non-citizen national.

(m) *U.S. non-citizen national* means a person on whom U.S. nationality, but not U.S. citizenship, has been conferred at birth under 8 U.S.C. 1408, or under other law or treaty, and who has not subsequently lost such non-citizen nationality.

[72 FR 64931, Nov. 19, 2007; 73 FR 5435, Jan. 30, 2008]

Subpart A—General

§ 51.2 Passport issued to nationals only.

(a) A passport may be issued only to a U.S. national.

(b) Unless authorized by the Department, no person may bear more than one valid passport of the same type.

§ 51.3 Types of passports.

(a) *Regular passport*. A regular passport is issued to a national of the United States.

(b) *Official passport*. An official passport is issued to an official or employee of the U.S. Government traveling abroad to carry out official duties. When authorized by the Department, spouses and family members of such persons may be issued official passports. When authorized by the Department, an official passport may be issued to a U.S. government contractor traveling abroad to carry out official duties on behalf of the U.S. government.

(c) *Diplomatic passport*. A diplomatic passport is issued to a Foreign Service officer or to a person having diplomatic status or comparable status because he or she is traveling abroad to carry out diplomatic duties on behalf of the U.S. Government. When authorized by the Department, spouses and family members of such persons may be issued diplomatic passports. When authorized by the Department, a diplomatic passport may be issued to a U.S. Government contractor if the contractor meets the eligibility requirements for a diplomatic passport and the diplomatic passport is necessary to complete his or her mission.

(d) *Passport card*. A passport card is issued to a national of the United States on the same basis as a regular passport. It is valid only for departure from and entry to the United States through land and sea ports of entry between the United States and Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean and Bermuda. It is not a globally interoperable international travel document.

[72 FR 64931, Nov. 19, 2007, as amended at 72 FR 74173, Dec. 31, 2007]

§ 51.4 Validity of passports.

(a) *Signature of bearer*. A passport book is valid only when signed by the bearer in the space designated for signature, or, if the bearer is unable to sign, signed by a person with legal authority to sign on his or her behalf. A